Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199399 ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:D.E.SIMCOX:MRG APPROVED BY ARA:AMBASSADOR STEDMAN

-----005556 221955Z/66

P 221900Z AUG 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PGOV

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO MEXICO (ROBERT C. HILL)

- 1. AMBASSADOR ROBERT C. HILL, WHO WAS AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO 1957-1961, HAS INFORMED US OF HIS PLANS TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO AUGUST 29-31.
- 2. AMBASSADOR HILL STATES HE WAS REQUESTED BY SENATE MINORITY LEADER HOWARD BAKER AND HOUSE MINORITY LEADER JOHN RHODES TO CALL ON LOPEZ PORTILLO, PRINCIPALLY TO CONVEY TO HIM THE INTEREST AND CONCERN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, A CONCERN WHICH HILL NOTES TRANSCENDS PARTY LINES. WHILE AMBASSADOR HILL IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HE STATES HE WILL NOT BE REPRESENTING THE COMMITTEE OR SPEAKING FOR IT IN HIS CALL ON JLP. HILL STATES HE WILL HAVE NO ADVICE OR SUGGESTIONS FOR JLP ON THE PROBLEM, BUT WOULD BE MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERESTED IN GETTING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS TO CONVEY TO REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. HE DOES NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE HIS VISIT AND INTENDS TO MAKE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR HOLD ANY PRESS CONFERENCES.

3. HILL HAS ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT HE SEEK APPOINT-MENT THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS TO AVOID POSSIBLE MISIN- TERPRETATION OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR ADMINISTRATION SPONSORSHIP. IF EMBASSY IS WILLING, HOWEVER, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SENIOR MISSION OFFICER DURING THE CALL SO THAT DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY CAN BE FULLY INFORMED.

- 4. AMBASSADOR HILL HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT HIS PLANS AND HE WAS INFORMED THAT APPOINTMENT WITH JLP AT THAT TIME MAY BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN IN VIEW OF IMMINENCE OF SEPTEMBER 1 INFORME. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND THEY WILL STAY AT THE HOTEL MARIA CRISTINA.
- 5. WHILE HE WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS, IF EMBASSY RECEIVES FOLLOW-UP INQUIRIES FROM GOM, WE HOPE YOU WILL URGE THAT APPOINTMENT BE GRANTED. CHRISTOPHER

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